

**MINUTES OF THE
STATE WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**
Tuesday, August 14, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.– Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Margaret Dayton, Senate Chair
Rep. Patrick Painter, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Comm. Leonard Blackham
Mr. Tage Flint
Mr. Jay Mark Humphreys
Mr. Dallin Jensen
Ms. Voneene Jorgensen
Mr. Darrell Mensel

Mr. Mike Mower
Mr. Joseph Paulick
Mr. Warren Peterson
Mr. Gene Shawcroft
Mr. Mike Styler
Mr. Ron Thompson
Mr. David Ure

Members Absent:

Sen. David P. Hinkins
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Ms. Amanda Smith

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Mr. Peter Asplund, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, Legislative Secretary
Ms. Anna M. Allen, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dayton called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. The commission and staff members introduced themselves. Mr. Allred distributed “State Water Development Commission Utah Code References” and “State Water Development Commission Members-2012.”

2. Future Development of Water Resources

Mr. Ure distributed and introduced the “2003 Water Funding Alternative Task Force Report” which was mailed to the commission prior to the meeting. He prefaced the task force report by discussing a recent nationwide crop report that addressed the current drought in the United States. Mr. Ure related the report to the situation in Utah and then invited Mr. Peterson and Mr. Flint to discuss the task force report in further detail. Mr. Ure recommended that the Task Force Report be made available to the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee since it is discussing cost of water in Utah.

Mr. Steve Clyde, Clyde Snow and Sessions, discussed the need for forward thinking regarding Utah water issues. He stated that although water conservation is beneficial, Utah also needs to develop additional water sources to meet the demands of a growing population. He emphasized the need to provide incentives for water conservation. Mr. Clyde also commended the members of the commission for being proactive in addressing water issues in the state. Mr. Clyde responded to questions from the commission.

Mr. Thompson discussed the editorial he wrote that was published in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on July 14, 2012, “St. George deserves a pipeline,” which was mailed to the commission members before the meeting. He said that the challenge is to protect the water we have, use it wisely, and develop more. He responded to questions from the commission.

3. Wise Water Use / Water Conservation

Mr. Peterson discussed the future of water management in Utah. He said that water conservation may be a misleading term and that wise water use is his preferred way to look at water allocation. Mr. Peterson stated that wise water use must be done using a basin-wide approach. He also discussed some of the goals outlined in the state water plan. Mr. Peterson then responded to questions from the commission.

4. Conversion of Agricultural Water

Mr. Sterling Brown, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, discussed many societal issues and debates surrounding water rights. Mr. Brown also explained how to transport and convert agriculture-irrigated water to urban centers for municipal and industrial use. He responded to questions from the commission.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Grover moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Davis absent for the vote.

Chair Dayton adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.